

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-6 and 8 are now present in the application. Claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended. Claim 7 has been cancelled. Claim 1 is independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that dependent claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant greatly appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

By the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 7, as discussed hereinbelow.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been addressed. Accordingly, all pending claims

are now definite and clear. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Warner, U.S. Patent No. 4,989,882, in view of Yost, U.S. Patent No. 3,578,344. Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Warner in view of Yost, and further in view of Yamasaki, U.S. Patent No. 6,357,753. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As mentioned, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 7, which was indicated by the Examiner as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 1 and its dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state of the prior art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

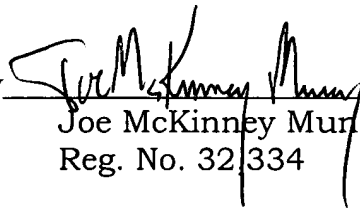
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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